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AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR

for the

YEAR 1963

A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S.,
D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M.& H.
Medical Officer of Health.

J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.
Public Health Inspector.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

I have the honour to present the Annual Report upon the health, vital statistics and sanitary conditions of the Ampthill Urban District for the year 1963.

The total numbers involved in the vital statistics are too small for any worthwhile conclusion to be drawn from them but, if taken over a five year period, continue to be satisfactory.

There were no serious outbreaks of infectious disease.

I am grateful to you, Mr.Chairman and members of the Sanitary and Highways Committee for the interest and co-operation you have shown during the year and I am most grateful to Mr.Mears, who is responsible for most of this report.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

A.R.DARLOW

Medical Officer of Health.

August, 1964.

AMPTHILL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
for 1963.

1. OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Medical Officer of Health - A.R.DARLOW, T.D., M.B., B.S., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.T.M & H.

Surveyor, Public Health Inspector and Housing Manager - J.P.MEARS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

2. GENERAL STATISTICS RELATING TO THE DISTRICT

Area	Acres 1,904
Population -	
Census for 1961	3,854
Registrar General's estimate of home population, mid year 1963 ..	4,110
Number of inhabited houses..	1,401
Rateable Value..	£131,237
Sum represented by Penny Rate (to 31.3.64)	£538.

3. SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Ampthill is in the southern half of the County and is approximately midway between Bedford and Luton. The town is placed on high ground, but pleasantly screened by well wooded countryside to two elevations; the district is situated in a part of the County noted for its fine woodlands and scenery, and Ampthill itself is well known for its buildings of architectural interest.

Ampthill Station has now been closed to passenger and goods traffic, the nearest railway station now being situated at Flitwick, about two miles distant. The United Counties Omnibus Company operate in this area and surrounding district.

The district is mainly residential with a few light industries including a laundry, agricultural and motor engineering and a firm of refrigeration engineers. During the year further businesses connected with light engineering were established in Station Road and plans were passed for a new factory.

No Council dwellings were completed or occupied during the year.

Fifty-four private houses were completed and occupied, the bulk of these being on the Holland Road and Abbey Close Estates. Work also commenced on the new estates off Oliver Street and Glebe Road and the further extension of the Ampthill House Estate.

Many of the inhabitants travel daily to Luton and Bedford for their employment, but others are employed at the local brickworks and Messrs.Fergusons and Huntings, whose premises are situated just outside the Urban District. The remainder are engaged in agriculture and other employment consistent with a small town situated in a predominantly rural area.

Ampthill Park provides facilities for cricket, tennis, hockey and fishing,and a small putting green is provided in an area set aside for recreation, where other children's playground equipment is established. Other sporting and social activities are provided by the Bowls, Rugby, Tennis, Badminton and Netball Clubs; Choral and Dramatic Societies and the Ampthill Town Band, and mainly for the younger people, Scouts and other Youth Organizations.

4. VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	37	32	69
Illegitimate	4	1	5
Total	41	33	74

Crude Birth Rate 18.0 per 1000 home population.
Adjusted Birth Rate 17.5 " " " "
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.97)
As compared with -
Average of last five years 17.9 per 1000 home population.
Rate for Bedfordshire 21.0 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 18.2 " " " "

Still Births	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	1	1
Illegitimate	1	-	1
Total	1	1	2

Still birth rate 26.3 per 1,000 live and still births
As compared with -
Average of last five years 17.5 per 1000 live and still-
Rate for Bedfordshire 17.3 " " " " births.
Rate for England and Wales 17.3 " " " " "

Deaths	Males	Females	Total
Deaths in the District	26	15	41
Transferred into District	12	3	15
Transferred from District	1	-	1
Total	37	18	55

Crude Death Rate 13.4 per 1000 home population.
Adjusted Death Rate 7.8 " " " "
(The comparability factor for the district being 0.58)
As compared with -
Average of last five years 12.4 per 1000 home population.
Rate for Bedfordshire 11.6 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 12.2 " " " "

Deaths of Infants under One year of age.	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	-	-	-
	1	-	1

Infant Mortality Rate 13.5 per 1000 related live births
As compared with -
Average of last five years 11.7 per 1000 related live
Rate for Bedfordshire 15.4 " " " " births.
Rate for England and Wales 20.9 " " " "

Deaths Connected with Childbirth
Maternal Mortality NIL per 1000 live and still births.
As compared with -
Average of last five years 2.9 per 1000 live births
Rate for Bedfordshire 0.11 " " " "
Rate for England and Wales 0.28 " " " "

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CAUSES OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE DURING 1963.

Cause of Death.	Total. All Ages.		Under 4 weeks.		4 weeks & under 1 year.		AGE IN YEARS. 1		5		15		25		35		45		55		65		75 and over	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus.	1	-																			1			
Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1																		1				
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	6	-													1						1		4	
Diabetes.	-	1																		1				
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	6																		1		1	3	4
Coronary disease, angina.	9	1													1		1		2		3		2	1
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	-																					1	
Other heart disease.	2	3																					2	3
Other circulatory disease.	1	-																					1	
Pneumonia.	2	4																					2	4
Bronchitis.	2	-																					2	
Other diseases of respiratory system.	1	-																	1					
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.	-	1										1												
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-																					1	
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-																					1	
Congenital malformations.	1	-																			1			
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	4	1	1									1					2						1	
All other accidents.	2	-					1								1									
Totals.	37	18	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	3	-	3	-	3	3	6	1	20	12

CAUSES OF DEATH IN INFANTS

	Male.	Female.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases.	1	-

5. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES IN THE AREA

Provided by the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board -

General Hospitals
Bedford General Hospital, South Wing, Kempston Road, Bedford.
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
The Luton and Dunstable Hospital, Luton.
St.Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Infectious Disease Hospitals
Spittlesea Isolation Hospital, Spittelsea, Near Luton.

Chest Clinics (for Pulmonary Tuberculosis)
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
St.Mary's Hospital, Luton.

Venereal Disease Clinics
Bedford General Hospital, South Wing,
Tuesday - 4.45 p.m. to 6 p.m. (Women)
6 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. (Men)
Friday - 2.45 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Women)
4 p.m. to 5.15 p.m. (Men)

St.Mary's Hospital, Luton.
Monday to Friday - 9 a.m. to 7.30 p.m.
Saturday - 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Provided by the Public Health Laboratory Service -

Bacteriological Laboratory
Bedford General Hospital, North Wing, Kimbolton Road, Bedford.
Public Health Laboratory, Lewsey Road, Luton.

Provided by the Bedfordshire County Council -

(a) Ambulance Service.
The Service provided by the Bedfordshire County Council has satisfactorily met the demands that are occurring. It covers the full twenty-four hours and is free of charge.

In addition to moving emergency cases, ambulance and sitting-case car transport is available for carrying patients unable to travel by other means to and from Hospitals and Clinics at which attendance is necessary for the purpose of receiving medical treatment.

Except in the case of emergency, the request for an ambulance must be made by a Medical Practitioner or other Authorised Person. This should be made to the nearest depot.

The Service also covers the removal to isolation hospitals of patients suffering from infectious disease.

Depots are situated as follows -

Ampthill - 14 Dunstable Street.	Telephone Ampthill 3333
Bedford - Bedford Road, Kempston.	Bedford 5335
Biggleswade - Chestnut Avenue.	Biggleswade 2295
Dunstable - High Street North.	Dunstable 62761
Luton - Leicester Road.	Luton 52600 & 51871
Linslade, Bucks County Council, 10 New Road, Leighton Buzzard.	Leighton Buzzard 3332

(b) Domiciliary Nursing and Midwifery Service.
Administered by the Northern Divisional Health Committee -

The Nurses employed are -

Mrs.L.E.Stockbridge, 11 Arthur Street, Ampthill.
Telephone - Ampthill 2261.

Mr.K.F.Crapps, 189 Oliver Street, Ampthill.
Telephone - Ampthill 3248.

(c) Health Visiting Service
Miss E.V.Maberly, 14b Linden Road, Bedford.

(d) Home Help Service
Organiser - Mrs.van Berckelaer, Health Centre, Union Street, Bedford.

(e) Child Welfare Centre
1 Dunstable Street, Ampthill - Friday afternoons.

6. SCHOOLS

There are two schools in the District - Redborne County Secondary School, Flitwick Road and The Russell School (Queen's Road and Flitwick Road).

7. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

(a) Water Supply
Responsibility for the water supply of the District has now been transferred to the Mid-Beds Water Board.

TYPICAL RESULT OF CHEMICAL EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE OF TREATED WATER

Parts per million:

Colour	Nil	Turbidity	5
pH	8.3	Odour	Nil
Electric Conductivity	360	Free Carbon Dioxide	Trace.
Chlorine present as Chloride	27	Dissolved solids dried at 180°C.	250
Hardness: Total, 175: Carbonate	70	Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate.	70
Nitrate Nitrogen	0.3	Non Carbonate	105
Ammoniacal Nitrogen	0.018	Nitrite Nitrogen	Absent
Albuminoid "	0.007	Oxygen absorbed	0.25
Metals: Iron 0.34		Residual Chlorine	Absent
Manganese 0.04			
Zinc, copper, lead: Absent.			

(b) Drainage and Sewerage
The Sewage Disposal Works are sited at Abbey Lane and consist of the following - Detritus and Sedimentation tanks, rotary percolating filters, humus tanks, storm water overflows and sludge beds. The treated effluent discharges into the "Running Waters" Brook, which enters the River Flitt.

During the year extensive repairs were carried out to the distributors, one of which had failed completely, thus producing a poor effluent.

(c) Rivers and Streams

Slight pollution of "Running Waters" took place due to the breakdown of No.2 distributor at the Sewage Disposal Works.

(d) Closet Accommodation.

The majority of the premises in the town have water carriage systems, but 68 houses with no sewer available are connected to cesspools, or septic tank installations. Three dwellings (isolated farm dwellings and cottages) have only pail closets.

(e) Public Cleansing

During August delivery was taken of a Shelvoke & Drewry 25D compression type vehicle, in place of the existing Karrier Bantam 7 cu.yds. side loading vehicle which had been used continuously for eight years. Tipping also commenced at Brogborough, in co-operation with Ampthill Rural District Council, but an improvement in the collection service was not forthcoming due to the unavailability of suitable labour. The existing tip at Bedford Road, will only be used for small loads of unputrescible rubbish and will eventually be covered. Treatments are carried out to prevent infestation by rodents and other pests.

The Council do not operate a cesspool cleansing service, occupiers of premises drained to cesspools and septic tanks make their own private arrangements for emptying.

(f) Salvage

No wastepaper was collected during the year for salvageable purposes due to the poor economic state of the market.

(g) Sanitary Inspection of Area

The following is a summary of the sanitary and other defects dealt with during the year -

Premises with defective and insanitary closets.	7
Premises with insufficient sanitary accommodation.	2
Premises with insanitary and defective drains.	3
Premises with insanitary and defective cesspools.	5
Premises with defective windows, insufficient light and ventilation.	3
Premises with defective floors.	3
Dirty premises.	1
Dangerous structure.	-
Accumulations of offensive matter.	1
Unsound meat and other foods.	9
Rooms disinfected for bed bugs etc. and infectious disease.	1
Nuisance from rats and mice.	41
Other dilapidations.	-
Number of Statutory Notices served.	-
Number of informal notices served.	17
Number of defective premises.	11

(h) Shops and Offices

These establishments were inspected at intervals and were all found to be generally satisfactory, no formal action being necessary.

(i) Caravans, Moveable Dwellings, Camping Sites etc.

Only one caravan was licensed for a temporary period during the year. No other caravans, moveable dwellings or camping sites exist.

(j) Smoke Abatement

No complaints of smoke nuisance were received during the year.

(k) Disinfestation

One new dwelling was disinfested to eradicate fleas from an unknown source - no further infestation after treatment.

8. HOUSING

During the year no Council dwellings were completed and occupied and no plans were prepared for further development.

Fifty four private houses were completed and occupied, the majority of these being on the Holland Road and Abbey Close Estates.

The following plans were approved under Building Byelaws -

60 dwellings.	1 conversion stable block to dwelling.
45 alterations to domestic premises.	1 Children's residential nursery.
7 alterations to business premises.	1 Builders Merchants store.
20 garages.	1 New Factory and Offices.
4 car ports.	1 Public Hall.
4 change of users.	2 alterations to public houses.
2 conversions of houses to flats.	

Town and Country Planning

72 Applications under the Town and Country Planning Act were received, of which 51 were approved, 19 refused and 2 withdrawn.

7 Applications under the Advertisement Regulations were received, of which 6 were approved and 1 refused.

9. RODENT CONTROL

A trained operator has been employed to carry out the destruction of rodents, make surveys etc. and take such steps as to keep infestation down to a minimum. Regular treatments were carried out at the Refuse Tip and Sewage Works, and domestic and business premises were attended to as and when required. Regular surveys of ditches and streams in the district generally were carried out and the necessary treatment given. Tests of the Sewerage system were carried out in accordance with Ministry instructions.

10. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Number of premises handling food and visits made thereto -

	Premises.	Visits Made.
(a) Shops.		
1. Ice Cream Vendors.	13	28
2. Bakers and Confectioners.	9	20
3. Grocers.	4	11
4. Fishmongers.	1	3
5. General stores.	9	27
6. Butchers.	5	22
7. Dairies and retail milk distributors.	2	5
(b) Vans, Stalls and Hawkers.	3	15
(c) Catering Establishments.		
1. Restaurants and Cafes.	3	11
2. Industrial Canteens.	-	-
3. School canteens.	2	6
4. Hotels.	1	5
5. Outside catering contractors.	-	-
6. Fish and chip shops.	1	4
7. Others.	-	-

(d) Manufacturing Establishments.

	Premises.	Visits Made.
1. Sausage Makers.	5	22
2. Meat pie and cooked meat makers.	5	22
3. Bakehouses.	-	-
4. Ice Cream Makers.	-	-
5. Confectionery Manufacturers.	-	-
6. Others.	-	-

(e) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949
Milk (Special Designation) Regulations 1949-54)

Regular inspections have been carried out of the two retailers premises which were found to be satisfactory. Three dairies situated outside the district retail designated milk within the Urban area.

(f) Unfit Foods.

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption -

One Pig's carcase - 93 lbs.
2 stone of dogfish - 28 lbs.
One dozen faggots.
146 lbs - Tinned foods and groceries.

Tinned food and groceries which are usually condemned in small quantities are collected and buried at the Council's Refuse Tip. Condemned meat at the butchers shops is always stained with condemned meat dye before collection by processing firms.

(g) Butchers Shops (all registered under S.16 Food and Drugs Act 1955)

The five butchers shops have been regularly inspected and are maintained in a good condition, all complying with the Food Hygiene Regulations.

(h) Ice Cream Registrations.

Thirteen premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, all of which sell a pre-packed article. No samples were taken during the year by this Department.

(i) Food Hygiene Regulations.

Regular inspections were carried out to ensure the regulations were being complied with.

11. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Notification by Age Groups.

Disease	0 - 5	5 - 15	Over 15	Total	Removed to Hospital.
Scarlet Fever	-	1	1	2	-
Whooping Cough	1	-	-	1	-
Measles	4	3	-	7	-

These columns depend for their accuracy on notifications received from general practitioners. Some of the diseases have now become so unimportant that there is nowhere near full notification, so that the figures given can only be taken as an indication of the trend.

Reporting of serious diseases is still complete and in this connection it will be noticed that there have been no cases of poliomyelitis, diphtheria, typhoid or other dangerous infectious disease.

Tuberculosis in Age Groups

Age	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1								
1 - 5								
5 - 15								
15 - 35	1	1						
35 - 65								
Over 65								
Total	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-

Number on Register at End of Year

Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
Male	Female	Male	Female
9	5	-	3

Death Rates per 100,000 of the Population

This District	-	NIL
Bedfordshire	-	4.2
England and Wales	-	5.6

12. MASS RADIOGRAPHY

There is a weekly visit of a mobile unit for chest x-rays on the request of a general practitioner. This unit is on The Sands, every Thursday from 12 noon to 12.30 p.m.

13. IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

Vaccination against anterior poliomyelitis, whooping cough and diphtheria, is the responsibility of the County Council, and has been carried out at child welfare clinics and in the schools.

Immunisation against tuberculosis by B.C.G. is offered to school leavers and is given in the schools.

Cleansing of Verminous Persons
Public Health Act 1936, Section 85

Lice

No treatments were given under this section this year.

The bulk of the cases which might call for treatment is in school children with lousy heads, who are always treated informally by the school nurse.

There is an arrangement with the Borough of Bedford to treat general infestations at Barkers Lane, Bedford, at a cost of 30/- per treatment for adults and 17/6d per treatment for children.

Modern treatment of scabies no longer necessitates cleansing under this Section.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of - Inspections.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
1. Factories in which Sections 1 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority.	4	9		
2. Factories not included in (1) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	15	18		
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * excluding outworkers premises.	13	42		
Total.	32	69		

* Institutions, Section 124, and sites of building operations and works of engineering construction, Section 127.

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND
(if defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more 'cases').

Particulars.	Number of cases		Defects to H.M. Inspector.	Found by H.M. Insp.	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied			
Want of Cleanliness (s.1)					
Overcrowding (s.2)					
Unreasonable temperature(s.3)					
Inadequate ventilation (s.4)					
Ineffective drainage of floors (s.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (s.7)					
(a) Insufficient	2	1			
(b) Unsuitable or defective	4	4			
(c) Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Acts (not including offences relating to Outwork)					
Total.	6	5			

PART VIII OF THE ACT - OUTWORK

Sections 133 & 134

	Section 133			Section 134		
Nature of Work.	No. of out workers in August list required by Section 133 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions.
Wearing apparel making etc.	-	-	-	-	-	-

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